

**MINUTES  
of the  
FIRST MEETING  
of the  
ECONOMIC AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

**June 22, 2015  
Room 322, State Capitol  
Santa Fe, New Mexico**

The first meeting of the Economic and Rural Development Committee (ERDC) was called to order by Senator Benny Shendo, Jr., chair, on June 22, 2015 at 10:12 a.m. in Room 322 of the State Capitol in Santa Fe.

**Present**

Sen. Benny Shendo, Jr., Chair  
Sen. Richard C. Martinez  
Sen. Michael Padilla  
Sen. John Pinto  
Rep. Debbie A. Rodella  
Rep. Bob Wooley  
Rep. John L. Zimmerman

**Absent**

Rep. Dianne Miller Hamilton, Vice Chair  
Sen. Jacob R. Candelaria  
Sen. Ron Griggs  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson  
Rep. Rick Little  
Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero  
Sen. Pat Woods

**Advisory Members**

Rep. Eliseo Lee Alcon  
Sen. Craig W. Brandt  
Sen. Lee S. Cotter  
Rep. Nora Espinoza  
Rep. Bealquin Bill Gomez  
Rep. Jimmie C. Hall  
Sen. Mark Moores  
Rep. Nick L. Salazar

Rep. George Dodge, Jr.  
Sen. Carroll H. Leavell  
Rep. Patricia A. Lundstrom  
Sen. Mary Kay Papen  
Rep. Dennis J. Roch  
Sen. William E. Sharer

**Staff**

Monica Ewing, Staff Attorney, Legislative Council Service (LCS)  
Celia A. Ludi, Staff Attorney, LCS

**Guests**

The guest list is in the meeting file.

**Handouts**

Copies of all handouts are in the meeting file.

## **Monday, June 22**

### **Call to Order**

Senator Shendo welcomed members of the committee, staff and guests to the meeting. Committee members and LCS staff members introduced themselves.

### **Review of 2015 Committee-Endorsed Legislation**

Ms. Ewing provided a brief update of legislation endorsed by the committee in 2014 and introduced in the 2015 regular session.

- House Bill 243, which included several amendments to the Liquor Control Act, was passed by both houses and signed by the governor.
- Senate Joint Memorial 7, which requested governmental cooperation among New Mexico, the United States and Mexico to improve and maintain roads, passed the Senate Corporations and Transportation Committee but died in the Senate Rules Committee.
- Senate Bill 78, which provided for an appropriation of \$378,000 for improving planning, tracking and mapping of community and economic development and capital improvement projects; technical and grant administration assistance; and implementation and coordination of projects and programs by the state's planning districts and councils of governments, was passed by the Senate Public Affairs Committee and died in the Senate Finance Committee. An appropriation of \$75,000 was included in the General Appropriation Act of 2015, but that line item was vetoed by the governor.
- House Bill 96, which provided for an appropriation of \$1,440,000 for New Mexico-grown fresh fruits and fresh vegetables for school meals, died in committee; however, an appropriation of \$364,300 for this purpose was made in the General Appropriation Act of 2015.

### **Committee Work Plan and Meeting Schedule**

Ms. Ewing explained that the proposed work plan and schedule were developed in consultation with the chair and vice chair of the committee and that items included on the work plan were proposed by committee members, legislators and other interested persons.

In addition to the topics listed in the proposed work plan, the committee included the following issues to be addressed during the interim:

- early childhood care and education and related rules;
- telecommunications regulations;
- broadband infrastructure;
- investment in New Mexico technology collaborations;
- procurement and a resident business set-aside;
- economic development in Santa Teresa, New Mexico;

- industrial hemp;
- water and water infrastructure;
- update on Indian gaming;
- technology transfer and the Venture Acceleration Fund;
- airplane maintenance hangar in Roswell; and
- liquor control policy.

### **Public Comment**

Nancy King, lobbyist for the New Mexico Hospitality Association, informed the committee that the association's focus for the year is on job training for the hospitality and tourism industry, and she requested an opportunity to make a presentation to the committee about the program.

Justin Green, a citizen lobbyist who works on liquor control policy and other economic development issues, requested that liquor control policy be addressed at the committee's July meeting. He suggested that the committee consider the implications of the passage of Senate Bill 241 (2015) as well as additional economic development-related potential changes to the state's liquor policy. He added that technology transfer from the national laboratories is the subject of a bill introduced in Congress by U.S. Senator Martin Heinrich and that the committee might consider a presentation on that issue.

Conroy Chino, lobbyist for the Pueblo of Acoma and the Jicarilla Apache Nation, suggested that the committee hear a presentation related to tribes that have made significant investments in tourism.

Wade Jackson, general counsel for the Economic Development Department (EDD), introduced himself and informed the committee that the EDD would have a representative attend each of the committee's meetings to answer any questions that might arise about the department's activities.

Because a quorum of voting members of the committee was not established, Senator Papen, president pro tempore of the senate, appointed Senator Cotter to serve as a voting member of the committee. The proposed work plan, as amended during the committee's discussion, and the proposed meeting schedule were approved without objection.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the committee, the first meeting of the ERDC for the 2015 interim adjourned at 10:53 a.m.